

Serial No. 10/724,777  
Amendment dated December 3, 2004  
In Reply of Office Action date June 3, 2004

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of the claims in the application.

**Listing of Claims:**

1-18(cancelled).

19(currently amended). A manhole having an openable and closable outwardly opening manhole cover, comprising:

- a) a manway defining the manhole, the manway being configured for being provided on a negative pressure storage tank;
- b) the outwardly opening manhole cover being hingedly attached to the manway;
- c) the outwardly opening manhole cover including a hinge frame assembly;
- d) a seal provided on the negative pressure storage tank manway;
- e) a pin provided for securing the outwardly opening

manhole cover to the manway;

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f) a locking and sealing assembly being provided adjacent to the outwardly opening manhole cover; and

g) the locking assembly including a locking and sealing element for engaging the outwardly opening manhole cover with the seal for locking and sealing the negative pressure storage tank manway.

20(original). A manhole having a cover as in claim 19, wherein:

a) the locking and sealing element includes a threaded locking post, the threaded locking post being moveable relative to the hinge frame assembly and the cover for locking and sealing the cover with the seal.

21(original). A manhole having a cover as in claim 19, wherein:

a) a groove is provided in the seal, the groove being configured for receiving a rim of the manhole cover.

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22(original). A manhole having a cover as in claim 21,  
wherein:

a) the pin is provided between the hinge frame  
assembly and the manway, and the pin secures the hinge frame  
assembly to the manway.

23-26(cancelled).

27(previously presented). A manhole as in claim 19, wherein:

a) a mounting flange is provided adjacent the manhole  
cover.

28(previously presented). A manhole as in claim 27, wherein:

a) a bolting flange is provided adjacent the manway.

29(previously presented). A manhole as in claim 28,

wherein:

a) a gasket is mounted between the bolting flange and  
the mounting flange.

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30(previously presented). A manhole as in claim 28,  
wherein:

a) the mounting flange is bolted to the bolting  
flange.

31-41(cancelled).

42(new). A manhole as in claim 19, wherein:

a) the locking assembly includes a threaded locking  
post, and the threaded locking post is movable relative to the  
hinge frame assembly and the openable and closable cover for  
locking and sealing the cover with the seal.

43(new). A manhole as in claim 42, wherein:

a) the locking assembly includes a locking post base  
adjacent the threaded locking post, and the locking post base is  
fixed relative to the cover.